

## REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: Potential NPL Proposal of Norphlet Chemical (Former Macmillan Ring-Free Oil)

DATE: February 06, 2013

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Region 6 NPL coordinator

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: Information Only

DEADLINE DATE: No Action is due.

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### BACKGROUND:

Norphlet Chemical is an abandoned industrial property located in Norphlet, Union County, Arkansas. The facility is bordered by a residential subdivision and the Norphlet Public School on the west, Hayes Creek on the north and east, and Massey Creek and bottomlands associated with the creek to the southwest. Norphlet Chemical was built on the former location of MacMillan Ring-Free Oil Refinery which closed in 1987. The facility was inactive from 1987 until 1989, when the property was sold to Nor-Ark Industrial Corp (Nor-Ark) who used the on-site storage tanks for asphalt products until March of 1991, when the company filed for bankruptcy. The facility was refurbished by NCI as a chemical manufacturing plant in early 2006 to produce tetrafluoroethane (Freon 134A) refrigerant used in automobiles. The plant never operated as intended and failed to produce the product. In 2007 the facility was abandoned and has remained vacant. EPA removal actions occurred at both the McMillan Ring-Free Oil Refinery and Norphlet Chemical. Total removal costs to date are in excess of 8 million dollars.

### CURRENT STATUS:

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) placed this site on the Arkansas State Priority List (SPL) in 2010 under the Arkansas Remedial Action Trust Fund Act (RAFTA). ADEQ conducted a Comprehensive Site Assessment which developed remedial alternatives ranging from 4 to 15 million dollars in 2011. Due to the large cost of the proposed remedial action in November ADEQ requested EPA evaluate this site as a potential NPL caliber site. EPA conducted sampling in August 2012; analytical results documented the presence of releases to both surface water and ground water. Passive soil gas samples located between the site and the Norphlet Public School collected in August 2012 did not contain any volatile organic compound confirming that the ground water plume is moving in the opposite direction of the Norphlet Public School.

### ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

The site was referred to EPA by ADEQ. There are documented releases to both surface water and ground water. Sampling conducted by the ADEQ indicated that there may be as much as foot of petroleum product underlying the facility. Currently there are several active seeps of waste discharging into surface drainage pathways and wetlands areas north of the site.

### COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

- In November 2011 ADEQ requested EPA to evaluate the site for the NPL
- The Norphlet Public School property is located within 500 feet from the facility
- EPA will work with the community and ODEQ during the Superfund process.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The site is scheduled to be proposed to the NPL as part of April 2014 rule making.



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